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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Nile A. Lahr et al.  
Serial No: 10/537,326  
Filed: August 8, 2006  
For: ANNULAR VENTING OF TIRE TREAD MOLD

Exr. Jacob T. Minskey  
Art Unit: 1791  
Confirmation No.: 1874

Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

October 23, 2009

**RESPONSE**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated August 24, 2009.

**REMARKS**

In the Office Action, the Examiner agreed that the previous rejection based upon Hyata (US 4,691,431) was, in effect, overcome but issued a new and final rejection of claims 1 – 3, 5 – 11, 13, and 22 – 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Masayuki, JP 02-295706. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection and allow the claims currently pending.

Initially, it should be noted that the claims currently pending set forth the